

a6 c) said dryer being mounted upon said cleaner and communicating therewith through an unrestricted opening to permit immediate and substantially unrestricted transfer of the raw cotton from the dryer to the cleaner to effectuate cleaning before the trash recombines with the cotton and while it remains in a heated condition when trash separation is enhanced.

[In the claims, claim 5 is amended as follows:

a7 ~~5.~~ (Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim ~~4~~³ in which said T beams have square edges to inhibit the collection of trash in the spaces between the T beams.

] In the claims, claim 7 is amended as follows:

a8 7. (Amended) An improved combined process of reducing the moisture level of raw seed cotton and of cleaning said cotton, said process comprising the steps of:

- a) directing raw seed cotton in an air stream to a vertical dryer;
- b) impacting said seed cotton to break any wads into individual bolls and to thrust them upon at least one inclined shelf to provide a circuitous route for said bolls to further reduce moisture;
- c) substantially reducing the moisture level of the raw seed cotton to approximately 5% in the dryer;
- d) transferring the cotton from the dryer to a cylinder cleaner without compaction or entanglement of trash with the raw seed cotton and passing said seed cotton through a series of cylinder cleaners to enhance the cleaning function of the cleaner.

[In the claims, cancel claim 9.